

REMARKS

1. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 8-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 8, 10-11 and 14-16 have been rewritten in this manner. Claims 1, 6 and 18-23 have been canceled. Claims 2, 4-5, 7 and 17 have been amended to depend from claim 8. Claims 3 and 9 depend from claim 8 and claims 12-13 depend from claim 11. Accordingly, all currently pending claims recite subject matter that the Examiner has indicated as being allowable.

2. Claim Rejections

Claims 1-5 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,139,995 to Burm. Claims 1-7 and 17 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0064307 to Nakamura. Claims 18-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nakamura.

To expedite prosecution of the present application, the rejected claims have either been canceled or been amended to depend from claims that the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 25 U.S.C. §§ 102-103 is respectfully requested.

3. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned representative to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Serial No.: 10/755,664

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988, our Order No. H1700.

Respectfully submitted,

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